(d) the other steps being considered by the Government to improve power generation in the country during the said plan;

(e) whether the target set in 8th Five Year Plan for power sector has been achieved; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). The Ninth Plan, which is under finalisation, would interalia, address the resource requirements for the power sector including that for State owned power utilities.

(c) The response of the private sector to the private power programme has been encouraging. However, the financial position of the State Electricity Boards, inter alia, have affected early financial closure of some of these projects.

(d) The other steps being considered by Government include pursuing with the States/other entities a programme of Renovation and Modernisation, improvement in plant load factor of existing plants, reduction in Transmission and Distribution losses, demand side management, tariff rationalisation etc.

(e) and (f). As against a capacity addition programme of 30537.7 MW during the eighth plan, the likely achievement is expected to be 17668 MW. The main reasons for shortfall have been paucity of resources with the States, rehabilitation and resettlement issues, law and order etc.

Levy of Surcharge

1865. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to levy surcharge on construction of buildings costing over Rs. 50 lakhs to fund housing schemes for poor;

(b) if so, whether the Government also propose to impose penalty on illegal building construction to mobilise funds for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c). The National Housing Seminar held from 7th to 9th October, 1996 has, *inter alia*, recommended levy of tax on luxury housing, vacant land tax as well as heavy penalities on unauthorised constructions and crediting these proceeds into a "Shelter Fund" for cross subsidising the housing requirements of the poor.

However, no decision has been taken in this regard by Government.

Food Processing Industries

1866. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up and promote food processing industries in each State;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) the number of training centres on food processing set up in Tamil Nadu so far; and

(d) the steps being taken to set up more such centres in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b). The Ministry of Food Processing Industries do not set up any food processing unit directly in any State. However, with a view to encourage investment in food processing industries and to promote domestic/ NRI Foreign investment, Government have liberalised the policies and have delicensed all food processing industries except brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for Small Scale Sector. Since liberalisation till October, 1996. 3831 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda envisaging an investment of Rs. 45407 crores for setting up food processing industries in the country have been filed. Out of these, 507 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda involving an investment of Rs. 6596 crores have already been implemented. In addition, 815 approvals involving total project cost of Rs. 11418 crores for setting up 100% Export Oriented Units/Foreign Collaboration/Joint Venture etc. in the Food Processing Sector have been granted during the period till March, 1996. Out of these, 155 projects involving total project cost Rs. 3298 crores have started commercial production, till July, 1996.

In addition, this Ministry is also operating certain Plan Schemes under which financial assistance is provided to State Government Organisations/Assisted/ Joint Sector Companies/Voluntary Organisations/ Cooperatives etc. for setting up/upgrading of food processing facilities.

(c) Under the Plan Schemes of this Ministry financial assistance has been extended for setting up of 14 Food Processing and Training Centres in the State of Tamil Nadu during the Eighth Plan period.

(d) Proposals received for setting up such Centres are considered expeditiously.

[Translation]

Prohibited Areas of Laddakh

1867. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some places in the prohibited areas of

Laddakh region of Jammu and Kashmir had not been opened for the foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the places of the said region where the foreign tourists are allowed to visit at present; and

(d) the period for which the foreigners can stay at Ladakh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b). Foreign tourists in groups consisting of 4 or more persons sponsored by recognised tour operators are permitted to visit the following places, for a maximum period of 7 days after obtaining necessary permit from the competent authority.

Places

(i) *Khaltse Sub-Division (Drokanpa Area)*

(a) Khaltse-Dumkhar-Skorduchan-Hanudo-Biama-Dha.

(ii) *Nubra Sub-Division*

(a) Leh-Khardung La-Khalsar-Tirit upto Panamik.

(b) Leh-Khardung La-Khalsar upto Hunder

(c) Leh-Sabo-Digar La-Digar-Labab-Khandgru Gampa-Tangar.
(Only for trekking conducted by approved tour operators and accompanied by State Police Personnel).

(iii) Nyoma Sub-Division

(a) Leh-Upshi-Chumathang-Mahe-Puga-Tso-Morari Lake/Korzok.

(b) Leh-Upshi-Debring-Puga-Tso-Morari Lake/Korzok.

(c) Leh-Karu-Chang La-Durbuk-Tangtse-Lukung-Spankmik (Pangong Lake upto Spankmik).

Basic Amenities

1868. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the basic amenities in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the amount to be allocated for the purpose during 1997-98; and

(d) if so, the extent of increase alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

Seven Basic Services have been identified to be given priority for implementation under the Minimum Programme. The Services identified are :

(1) 100 per cent coverage of provision of safe drinking water in rural and urban areas.

(2) 100 per cent coverage of primary health facilities in rural and urban areas.

(3) Universalisation of primary education.

(4) Provision of public housing assistance to all shelterless poor families.

(5) Extension of mid-day meal programme in primary schools, to all rural blocks and urban slums and disadvantaged sections.

(6) Provision of connectivity to all unconnected villages and habitations.

(7) Streamlining the public ditribution with focus on the poor.

In the budget of 1996-97, Rs. 2466 crores have been provided as additional Central Assistance to States earmarked for these seven Basic Minimum Services.

(c) and (d). No decision has yet been taken regarding the amount to be allocated under the programme during 1997-98.

[English]

Fruit Processing Industries

1869. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of Fruit Processing Industries in the cooperative sector in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government have provided any financial assistance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) At present, there are 23 units engaged in the processing of fruits and vegetables in cooperative sector in the State of Maharashtra.

(b) and (c). Ministry of Food Processing Industries has provided financial assistance amounting to Rs. 264.37 lakhs under its various plan schemes during the Eighth Plan period for the development of fruits and vegetables processing units in cooperative sector in Maharashtra. Besides, financial assistance is also provided by the National Horticulture Board, Agricultural